30. To induce more investment for R & D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

Utilisation of flared gas in Assam

*75 DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of flaring of Associated gas in Assam in a year in terms of its total value.

(b) what steps Government are taking for proper utilisation of such flared gas;

(c) whether there is any free gas reserve in Assam; if so, the steps that have been taken for its utilisation; and

(d) if not, whether Government will explore gas reserves in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The quantum of gas flared in Assam during 1998-99 was approximately 292 Million Standard Cubic Metres (MMSCM) with estimated monetary value of Rs. 27.25 crore.

(b) Various steps taken for proper utilisation of natural gas and for reducing gas flaring are:

(i) Implementation of gas flaring reduction schemes to bring down the gas flaring to a minimum level of technical flaring.

(ii) Construction of gas evacuation pipelines including debottlenecking of existing gas transportation lines.

(iii) Incorporation of capacity control in gas compressors and installation of Gas Holders in order to negate the surging effect.

(iv) Taking up of storage-cum-Flow back scheme in order to conserve gas in underground depleted reservoir during low upliftment by outside consumers and supplement the market by flowing back the stored gas while the demand goes up.

(v) Supply of low pressure gas from marginal fields directly to low pressure system of tea gardens in the vicinity.

(vi) Procurement and installation of small size very low pressure compressors and Jet Ejectors for picking up very low pressure stabilizer gas.

(vii) Commissioning and extension of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) facility for real time monitoring of gas production, disbursement and quick control.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Free gas reserves of about 33 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) have been established in Assam. Steps taken for its utilisation include:—

(i) Preparation of a development scheme for exploitation of Adamtila and Banskandi gas fields.

(ii) Study/evaluation of various options e.g. Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) extraction, power generation, petro-chemicals etc. for utilisation of gas. Free gas produced from Lakwa-Lakhmani Geleki and Rudrasagar fields is partly fed to gas grid and rest supplied to the local consumer.

Assessment of damage caused by Cyclone

*76. SHRI ANANTHA SETHI:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment on the damage caused to Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal by recent cyclone;

(b) if so, the details of damage to human being, roads, power, telecom, crops, cattle wealth, etc., State-wise;

(c) the State-wise grants, and advance assistance extended by the Centre; and

(d) the progress of relief and rehabilitation measures as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):(a) and (b) The Super cyclone of 29th October, 1999 affected the States of Orissa and West Bengal. According to the information received from the Government of Orissa, the Super cyclone reportedly resulted in loss of 9885 human lives and about 4.44 lakh animals, besides damage to 18.29 lakh houses and to cropped area of 18.43 lakh ha. Damage was also caused to telecom services, Roads and power lines. The Government of West Bengal have reported that due to the Super cyclone, 17000 rural houses were damaged and the value of damage is about Rs. 57.73 lakh in agriculture sector and about Rs 94.98 lakh in the food processing and horticulture sectors. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not reported any damage due to the Super cyclone.

(c) Pending receipt of detailed Memorandum from the Government of Orissa, financial assistance of Rs. 400 crore (Rs. 200 crore as ad-hoc assistance from NFCR and Rs. 200 crore as advance plan assistance) has been provided by the Government of India to the State Government of Orissa in the wake of Super Cyclone, which is in addition to the release of Rs. 42.50 crore as Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to the State for 1999-2000. Additional assistance of Rs. 300 crore more has been announced from NFCR. An advance plan assistance of Rs. 250 crore was also sanctioned to Orissa for the cyclone of 17-18th October, 1999. Three quarterly